

CLAIMS:

1. A communication system between a transmitter and a receiver, which transmitter transmits digital data and data descriptors to the receiver via a communication channel, which communication system is characterized in that the transmitter comprises:

5 a) analysis means for analyzing digital data so as to identify data referred to as multiple-use data which can be used several times at the receiver end, and data referred to as single-use data which can be used only once upon reception at the receiver end,

b) creation means for creating data descriptors for describing each multiple-use data previously identified, said descriptors comprising a set of characterizing fields, and

10 c) insertion means for inserting the data descriptors in the set of multiple-use data, each multiple-use data being then associated with a data descriptor, and in that the receiver comprises:

d) analysis means for analyzing received data so as to detect the presence of descriptors of multiple-use data and thus to identify multiple-use data and single-use data,

15 e) storage means for storing detected multiple-use data and their associated descriptors previously received,

20 f) composition means for composing the contents of an application on the basis of single-use data and multiple-use data previously stored, a same data which has a multiple use in the composition of said contents being then directly recovered upon each use from said storage means by recovery means.

2. A communication system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the receiver comprises means for updating descriptors and multiple-use data previously received and stored in said storage means, said updating means taking into account in particular a
25 capacity of the receiver to deal with the contents of the multiple-use data to which said descriptors are attached and various time parameters contained in each descriptor in relation to a local clock.

3. A communication system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that each
30 descriptor of multiple-use data comprises a set of fields corresponding in particular to an identification code which renders it possible to distinguish the descriptor from the other descriptors, to the type of data to which the descriptor is attached, to a starting date and a final date defining a time window in which the data associated with the descriptor can be used, and to a duration of use for the data associated with the descriptor.

4. A receiver for receiving digital data, characterized in that it comprises:
a) analysis means for analyzing received data so as to detect the presence of
descriptors of multiple-use data and thus to identify multiple-use data and single-use data,
5 b) storage means for storing detected multiple-use data and their associated
descriptors previously received,
c) composition means for composing the contents of an application on the
basis of single-use data and multiple-use data previously stored, a same data which has a
multiple use in the composition of said contents being then directly recovered upon each use
10 from said storage means by recovery means.

5. A receiver as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that it comprises updating
means for updating descriptors and multiple-use data previously received and stored in said
storage means, said updating means taking into account in particular a capacity of the
15 receiver to deal with the contents of the multiple-use data to which said descriptors are
attached and various time parameters contained in each descriptor in relation to a local clock.

6. A transmitter for transmitting digital data and data descriptors over a
communication channel, characterized in that it comprises:
20 a) analysis means for analyzing digital data so as to identify data referred to as
multiple-use data which can be used several times at the receiver end, and data referred to as
single-use data which can be used only once upon reception at the receiver end,
b) creation means for creating data descriptors for describing each multiple-
use data previously identified, said descriptors comprising a set of characterizing fields, and
25 c) insertion means for inserting the data descriptors in the set of multiple-use
data, each multiple-use data being then associated with a data descriptor

7. A signal composed of digital data associated with descriptors, which signal is
characterized in that each descriptor of multiple-use data comprises a set of fields
30 corresponding in particular to an identification code which renders it possible to distinguish
the descriptor from the other descriptors, to the type of data to which the descriptor is
attached, to a starting date and a final date defining a time window in which the data
associated with the descriptor can be used, and to a duration of use for the data associated
with the descriptor.

8. A method of describing and recognizing data sent from a transmitter to a receiver via a communication channel, which transmitter transmits digital data and data descriptors to the receiver, which method is characterized in that the transmission of the data comprises:

a) an analysis step for analyzing digital data so as to identify data referred to as multiple-use data which can be used several times at the receiver end, and data referred to as single-use data which can be used only once upon reception at the receiver end,

b) a creation step for creating data descriptors for describing each multiple-use data previously identified, said descriptors comprising a set of characterizing fields, and

c) an insertion step for inserting the data descriptors in the set of multiple-use data, each multiple-use data being then associated with a data descriptor, and in that the reception of the data comprises:

d) an analysis step for analyzing received data so as to detect the presence of descriptors of multiple-use data and thus to identify multiple-use data and single-use data,

e) a storage step for storing detected multiple-use data and their associated descriptors previously received,

f) a composition step for composing the contents of an application on the basis of single-use data and multiple-use data previously stored, a same data which has a multiple use in the composition of said contents being then directly recovered upon each use from said storage means by recovery means.

9. A communication system as claimed in claim 1 between a server acting as the transmitter and a terminal acting as the receiver for transmitting digital encoded data in accordance with the MPEG-4 standard.

10. A computer support program for a communication terminal, said computer program comprising a series of instructions which, when they are loaded into the communication terminal, enable said communication terminal to execute the method of recognizing multiple-use data as claimed in claim 8.